

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-3 as follows.

1. (currently amended): A method of producing a Cu, Zn, Al, Zr oxide catalyst having activity of converting methanol to hydrogen gas containing almost no CO by oxidative steam reforming reaction wherein partial oxidation and steam reforming reaction are performed, comprising the steps of:

reacting a mixture of aqueous solutions of each nitrate of Cu, Zn, Al, and Zr with an aqueous NaOH solution and aqueous NaCO₃ solution;

producing a precipitate by coprecipitation;

aging, filtering, washing, and drying this precipitate to prepare a catalyst precursor consisting of a CuZnAlZr layered double hydroxide; and

then calcining this catalyst precursor in an air ambient atmosphere to obtain a CuZnAlZr oxide.

2. (original): The method of producing a CuZnAlZr oxide catalyst according to Claim 1, wherein the molecular ratio of Cu, Zn, Al, and Zr in the starting solution is $(\text{Cu} + \text{Zn}) / (\text{Al} + \text{Zr}) = 2 \text{ to } 4$.

3. (currently amended): A CuZnAlZr oxide catalyst ~~for hydrogen production by oxidative steam reforming of methanol~~, having activity of converting methanol to hydrogen gas containing almost no CO by oxidative steam reforming reaction of methanol, which is produced by the method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2.

4. (withdrawn)

5. (withdrawn)

6. (withdrawn)

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7. (withdrawn)

8. (withdrawn)



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SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Amendments to Claims 1 and 3 are supported by the descriptions of page 6, lines 3-5
and lines 12-14 of the Specification as originally filed.

No new matter has been entered by the amendments.

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present invention.